

WILSON BOROUGH
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA
SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

The Second Meeting of the Council of The Borough of Wilson was held in the Guy B. Tomaino Public Safety Building at 2040 Hay Terrace, President Reiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call followed.

PRESENT:

Leonard Feinberg
Daneen McGinley
Ronald Nixon
David Schug

Joan A. Lilly
James McGowan
Bob Reiss, President
Louis Starniri

ABSENT:

James Klass

Also present were: Solicitor Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Superintendent Greg Drake,
Chief Richard Nace, Mayor David S. Perruso, Chief Michael Collins (Late)

READING OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the September 12, 2005 Council Meeting were approved on a Motion by Mr. McGowan. Second by Ms. Lilly.

PRESENTATION OF MATTERS BY PERSONS PRESENT:

1. Joe Hurd of 1803 Fairview Avenue appeared before Council regarding several items concerning the Recreation Board and athletic associations. Mr. Hurd notified Council that the Wilson Area School District had interviewed four candidates for an open Rec Board seat. The school board had not appointed the most qualified candidate to the position because he was not a Wilson Borough resident. Ms. Lilly responded that according to the Rec Board By-laws the Board members must be Wilson Borough residents except the Rec Board members who also served on the school board.

Mr. Hurd inquired on the accountability of the athletic associations and the Recreation Board. It was explained that the associations are accountable to the Recreation Board and the Recreation Board is accountable to both Borough Council and the Wilson Area School District.

Mr. Hurd questioned the school board policy concerning outside vendors selling items on school property. Borough Council was not aware of the policy. Mr. Hurd stated that the soccer association was notifying people of this policy while soliciting for sponsorship. Ms. Lilly questioned why an association would allow an outside vendor to sell food items during athletic events when most associations make money at their refreshment stands. This policy would reduce the association's income. Ms. Lilly will discuss this matter with president of the soccer association.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

1. A letter was received from HealthWorks inquiring on the Borough's possible interest in the upcoming 2005-2006 Flu Program. Vaccines will be available after October 24, 2005. The cost of the vaccine is \$20.00 per shot and \$40.00 per hour/per nurse during normal business hours. As little interest was shown in the past by the employees for the flu vaccine, Mr. McGowan made a Motion not to offer flu shots this year. Second by Mr. Schug.

2. Ms. Lohrman presented Council with a letter from Capital Blue Cross explaining the options they will be offering under Medicare Part D in providing outpatient prescription drug coverage to Medicare beneficiaries. Ms. Lohrman explained that she will not receive information from Benecon until next month identifying which options they will be offering through Capital Blue Cross. Ms. Lohrman promised to share this information with Council when she receives it.

3. A letter from the Lehigh Valley Coalition on Affordable Housing requesting a donation of \$3,763.40 from the Borough to provide housing and meals to homeless persons living in 9 local shelters. Mr. Starniri stated that the Borough had not participated in making donations in the past and did not feel we should make any donations in the future.

4. A letter was received from Pam and John Richetta concerning the expenses of the 1st Annual Lehigh Valley Italian American Celebration. The Richettas did not feel the explanation in the Express-Times regarding the fees paid to the Borough and the expenses that had been charged were correct. The most serious of their concerns were the costs for Police coverage. The Richettas stated that they had negotiated 34 hours of police coverage with Mayor Perruso, but they were charged for 58 ½ hours of coverage. Mayor Perruso stated that he had never negotiated hours with the Richettas. He had requested they discuss the Police coverage with Chief Nace. The Chief stated that he had never discussed the hours

at all. Mr. Schug inquired about the services provided by Lehigh Law Enforcement during the event and why they were patrolling Borough property. Ms. McGinley made a Motion that the Richetta's pay for total amount due for Police services and other expenses incurred for the event or forfeit their reservation for next year's event.

Ms. McGinley made a Motion that the Richetta's must contact the Borough Manager to make arrangements for all future events. Second by Mr. Starniri.

5. A letter was received from Terri Piro of 616 S. 23rd Street, Apt. 2 requesting permission to hold a Block/Halloween Party on Saturday, October 29, 2005 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Ms. Lohrman added that she had spoken to Ms. Piro and the party would be held on the 2200 block of Birch Street.

6. A letter was received from Suburban EMS updating Borough Council on Suburban's recent participation in sending assistance in New Orleans with Hurricane Katrina's recovery.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

1. Mayor Perruso has received a request for a Handicapped Parking Sign from Cindy Rosenkrantz at 2421 Hay Street. While reviewing the application, Chief Nace found that the owner has off-street parking spots on her property. Motion to deny request for the Handicapped Parking Sign by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

2. Mayor Perruso reminded Council that there has not been any movement on Edelman Street. The project was supposed to have started by the end of September. Several Borough officials have talked to Palmer Supervisors regarding our situation. Palmer officials have agreed to put pressure on the developer to complete the Edelman Street project as agreed. Mayor Perruso suggested that the developer may have financial problems. Mayor Perruso inquired what legal steps the Borough could pursue in order to have the project completed. Mr. Minotti felt that the Borough did have an agreement with the developer to complete the work even though it was not in writing. Motion by Mr. Starniri to authorize the Solicitor to pursue the matter. Second by Mr. Schug. Mr. Minotti requested a project narrative. Ms. Lohrman will work with Mr. McGowan and Mr. Perruso to complete the narrative.

3. Mayor Perruso inquired on the status of the Bethlehem Corporation legal matter. The judge had awarded the Borough the sewer funds, but we still have not received them.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER:

1. Ms. Lohrman has received a Lease Agreement for the billboard located near Taco Bell. The lease is for ten years with an annual rent payment of \$4,600.00 for years 1-5 and \$5,200.00 for year 6-10. Mr. Starniri inquired as to whether this was a good rate for the lease. Ms. Lilly inquired if anyone from the Borough had requested the employees from Maier's Bakery not park under the billboard. Mr. Reiss responded that he did not believe anyone had spoken to them, but the billboard is on Borough property.

2. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that Mr. McGowan and Mayor Perruso had met with Easton City Councilman Ken Brown and Dave Hopkins concerning our parking problems at Fisk field. Several possible options were discussed. Ms. Lohrman has written a letter to Councilman Brown requesting permission from the City of Easton to either park near the garden area or on the unused baseball field located next to Fisk field. Councilman Brown will present the letter for discussion at the next city's Council meeting. Several Council persons hoped that the city might be willing to sell or lease the baseball field next to Fisk field to the Borough. Funds for the purchase of the field could come out of grant money or sewer capacity money.

3. Ms. Lohrman informed Council that the Borough had received five checks from the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority for the sale of sewer capacity. The amounts were as follows: \$215,997.50 (Lower Nazareth Township – Easton Hospital), \$73,068.890 (Williams Township – Smith/AMA), \$49,969.50 (Williams Township – To Be Assigned), \$72,822.05 (Williams Township – Moss Tract), and \$74,056.32 (Lower Nazareth – To Be Assigned). Mr. McGowan stated that these sales end the BBL capacity. All our regular capacity is intact. Ms. Lohrman has deposited the checks in the Borough's Sewer Capacity Account at Lafayette Ambassador Bank.

4. Ms. Lohrman informed the Police Negotiating Committee that the meeting scheduled in October has been postponed. She will contact committee members when the meeting has been rescheduled.

5. Ms. Lohrman has received the MMO for the Police Pension Plan for 2006. The Minimum Obligation for next year is \$60,850.00.

6. Mayor Perusso invited Council members who were available tomorrow morning, September 27, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. to attend the Business Development meeting in the Caucus room.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

1. Mr. Feinberg directed Ms. Lohrman to get rates to invest the \$485,000.00 we have received in sewer capacity money. Ms. Lohrman will also supply Council with the maturity dates of the certificates the Borough already has invested.

2. Mr. Feinberg is in receipt the Ordinances from the City of Allentown and the Town of Phillipsburg regarding property maintenance, apartment licensing and inspections, and rental properties having frequent police visits. The General Government committee will be looking into these matters for possible adoption by Wilson Borough.

FIRE:

1. Chief Collins will be sending a firefighter to a maintenance class sponsored by Metz Aerial from October 24, 2005 through October 27, 2005. Chief Collins has enough funds in his budget to pay for the training.
2. Chief Collins has been informed by Brad Harron, President of the Fire Fighters Union, that they have adopted a fire department from the hurricane stricken area. Mr. Harron was inquiring if the Borough were willing to match funds the union would be donating. As the Borough is unable to make donations, Mr. Starniri asked Council members if they would donate as individuals.

POLICE:

1. Chief Nace has completed the traffic study as requested by Council at the last meeting. Chief Nace found significant traffic going through the N. 18th and Spring Garden Street intersection. However, Chief Nace found no pedestrian traffic at all. Chief Nace felt that stop signs were installed on Spring Garden Street that it would cause traffic tie ups. Chief Nace did not recommend using stop signs. Motion by Ms. McGinley to authorize Mr. Drake to post lower speed limit signs. The speed limit would be at Chief Nace's discretion. Second by Mr. Starniri.

PUBLIC WORKS:

1. Mr. McGowan informed Council that the Public Works committee has reviewed the applications received for the vacant full time Public Works position. The committee has narrowed the field down to two applicants. Mr. McGowan requested a Caucus to discuss the two candidates.
2. Mr. Drake informed Council that Charles Paris from PennDot has approved the contract for the street repaving. A problem has been discovered on Fairview Avenue and Lehigh Street after the milling was complete. It will be an additional \$11,000.00 to fix the problems. Mr. Paris was contacted and the Borough is allowed 20% in cost overruns. Mr. Drake stated that the notching was done today and the paving should be completed on Saturday.
3. Mr. Drake requested that the gentleman doing the street repair to look at the municipal building parking lot and give prices to repave the lot and install a new line to the drain. Mr. Starniri inquired about the lighting problem. Mr. Drake felt the lighting situation could be remedied easily.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

None

ATTORNEY:

1. Mr. Minotti also requested a Caucus on a personnel/labor matter.

MECAB:

1. Mr. McGowan reminded Council that the MECAB meeting is on Wednesday, September 27, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Strausser Community Center. Light refreshments will be served. Mayor Perruso hopes everyone will attend. Dues are currently due in the amount of \$50.00. Motion to pay the dues by Mr. McGowan. Second by Mr. Starniri. Mr. McGowan and Mayor Perruso have been serving as the representatives of the Borough.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

DEFERRED BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly reminded Council that the Noise Ordinance goes into effect at 10:00 p.m. Motion to approve the request for a Halloween/Block party on October 29, 2005 from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The 2100 and 2200 blocks of Birch Street will be closed. Second by Mr. Starniri.
2. Motion to have Mr. Minotti review the billboard agreement by Mr. Feinberg. If Mr. Minotti finds the agreement favorable, the appropriate officers are authorized to sign the lease. Second by Ms. Lilly.
3. Motion by Ms. McGinley to send a letter of recognition to Suburban EMS for their contribution to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. Second by Mr. Nixon.
4. Chief Collins informed Council that the applications for the Fire Department Civil Service List became available on Friday, September 23, 2005. The written exam will be given on October 19, 2005.
5. As the Civil Service List for the Police Department has expired, Chief Nace was instructed to contact the Civil Service Board to get the process started for preparing a new list for the Police Department.
6. Ms. Lilly inquired about the clothing allowance reimbursements for the part time officers. Chief Nace stated that they are being paid.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ms. Lilly made a Motion to hire Eric Flowers as an employee in the Public Works department. Second by Mr. Nixon.

ORDINANCE:

None

RESOLUTIONS:

None

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS:

Bills of \$34,157.87 were paid on a Motion by Mr. Starniri. Second by Mr. Feinberg.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. McGinley made a Motion to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Second by Ms. Lilly and Council concurred.

Transcribed from a tape.

KAREN A. LOHRMAN, BOROUGH SECRETARY